2009

SC Annual School District Report Card Summary

Pickens School District
Grades: PK-12   **Enrollment:** 16,647
Superintendent: Dr. Henry Hunt
Board Chair: Jim Shelton

PERFORMANCE

Comprehensive detail, including definitions of ratings, performance criteria, and explanations of status, is available on www.ed.sc.gov and www.eoc.sc.gov as well as school and school district websites. Printed versions are available from school districts upon request.

YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING	PALMETTO GOLD AND SILVER AWARD		AYP STATUS	NCLB IMPROVEMENT STATUS
			General Performance	Closing the Gap		
2009	Average	Average	N/A	N/A	Not Met	CA
2008	Below Average	At-Risk	N/A	N/A	Not Met	CDI
2007	Average	Below Average	N/A	N/A	Not Met	NI

ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF DISTRICTS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	AT-RISK
0	0	9	1	0

Ratings are calculated with data available by 06/01/2010. Districts with Students Like Ours are Districts with Poverty Indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this district.

PASS

PASS	2009 Reading	2009 Math	2009 Science	2009 Social Studies	2009 Writing
	% Met or above	% Met or above	% Met or above	% Met or above	% Met or above
District	79.7%	75.7%	76.1%	78.5%	78.5%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	75.5%	72.9%	70.3%	75.1%	73.0%
Average District	73.6%	70.5%	67.4%	72.2%	70.2%

PASS	2009 Reading	2009 Math	2009 Science	2009 Social Studies	2009 Writing
	%Exemplary	%Exemplary	%Exemplary	%Exemplary	%Exemplary
District	41.4%	33.7%	22.2%	35.3%	38.1%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	37.9%	31.6%	20.5%	31.8%	33.5%
Average District	35.2%	28.8%	18.8%	28.5%	29.8%

HSAP

HSAP: 2nd Year Students	Passed 2 Subtests (%)	Passed 1 Subtest (%)	Passed No Subtests (%)
District	79.7%	11.1%	9.2%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	78.0%	12.4%	9.6%

HSAP Passage Rate by Spring 2009 (%)

District	95.8%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	94.4%

End of Course Test Passage Rate (%)

District	66.7
Districts with Students Like Ours**	66.1

On-Time Graduation Rate (%)

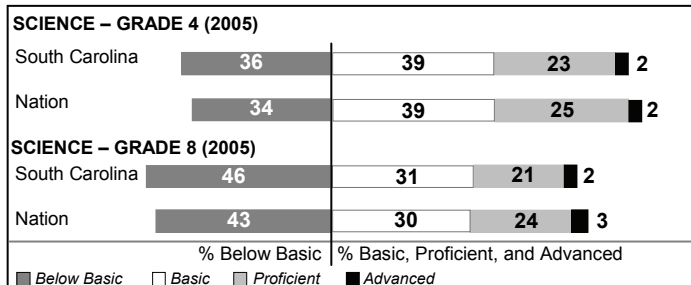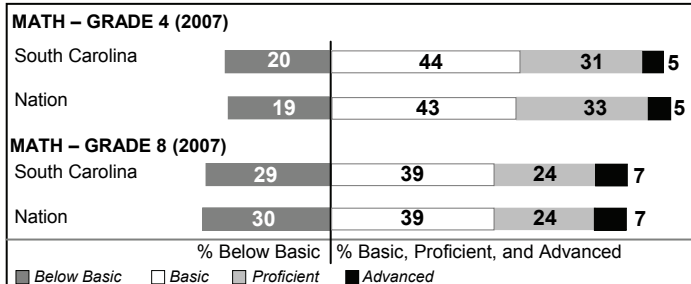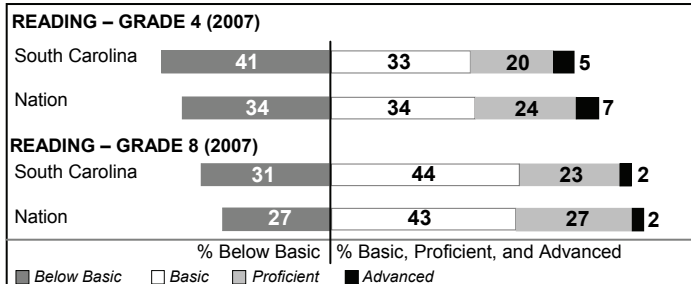|	
District	72.6%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	74.7%

** Districts with Students Like Ours are districts with Poverty Indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this district.

NAEP*

Performance reported for SC and nation, data not available at school level. Percentages at NAEP Achievement Levels.

READING – GRADE 4 (2007)

South Carolina	41	33	20	5
Nation	34	34	24	7

READING – GRADE 8 (2007)

South Carolina	31	44	23	2
Nation	27	43	27	2

% Below Basic | % Basic, Proficient, and Advanced
■ Below Basic □ Basic ▨ Proficient ■ Advanced

MATH – GRADE 4 (2007)

South Carolina	20	44	31	5
Nation	19	43	33	5

MATH – GRADE 8 (2007)

South Carolina	29	39	24	7
Nation	30	39	24	7

% Below Basic | % Basic, Proficient, and Advanced
■ Below Basic □ Basic ▨ Proficient ■ Advanced

SCIENCE – GRADE 4 (2005)

South Carolina	36	39	23	2
Nation	34	39	25	2

SCIENCE – GRADE 8 (2005)

South Carolina	46	31	21	2
Nation	43	30	24	3

% Below Basic | % Basic, Proficient, and Advanced
■ Below Basic □ Basic ▨ Proficient ■ Advanced

SC PERFORMANCE GOAL

2010 Goal:
By 2010, SC's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the fastest improving systems in the country.

2020 Vision:
By 2020 all students will graduate with the knowledge and skills necessary to compete successfully in the global economy, participate in a democratic society and contribute positively as members of families and communities.

Abbreviations Key
N/A Not Applicable **N/AV** Not Available **N/C** Not Collected **N/R** Not Reported **I/S** Insufficient Sample **TBD** To be determined
NI Newly Identified **CDI** Continuing District Improvement **CA** Corrective Action **RP** Plan to Restructure **R** Restructure **DELAY** District Improvement Status **HOLD** District Improvement Status

Pickens School District

DISTRICT PROFILE

	Our District	Change from Last Year	Districts with Students Like Ours	Median District
Students (n=16,647)				
Retention rate	3.0%	Down from 3.7%	2.7%	3.1%
Attendance rate	95.7%	Up from 95.4%	96.2%	95.7%
Eligible for gifted and talented	18.4%	Down from 19.3%	17.1%	11.2%
With disabilities other than speech	10.1%	Up from 9.5%	9.9%	10.6%
Older than usual for grade	3.2%	Down from 3.5%	3.1%	4.3%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.8%	No Change	0.4%	0.5%
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	18.7%	Up from 17.5%	18.5%	10.5%
Successful on AP/IB exams	69.0%	Up from 65.1%	59.9%	51.2%
Eligible for LIFE Scholarship	52.0%	Up from 41.1%	37.3%	30.8%
Enrolled in adult education GED or diploma programs	194	Up from 91	72	40
Completions in adult education GED or diploma programs	129	Up from 80	70	30
Annual dropout rate	5.5%	Down from 6.2%	3.8%	3.4%
Teachers (n=1,105)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	61.0%	Up from 58.9%	59.0%	56.8%
Continuing contract teachers	82.8%	Down from 85.0%	78.2%	76.7%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	2.3%	Up from 2.0%	2.9%	4.6%
Teachers returning from previous year	91.9%	Down from 92.6%	90.7%	88.4%
Teacher attendance rate	95.9%	Up from 94.9%	95.4%	95.0%
Average teacher salary*	$47,519	Up 2.5%	$47,840	$46,992
Vacancies for more than nine weeks	0.2%	Up from 0.1%	0.3%	0.4%
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.8%	Up from 0.4%	0.8%	2.3%
Professional development days/teacher	12.6 days	Down from 14.8 days	13.4 days	13.1 days
District				
Superintendent's years at district	0.0	Down from 2.0	3.5	3.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	22.9 to 1	Up from 22.6 to 1	21.5 to 1	20.5 to 1
Prime instructional time	90.7%	Up from 89.1%	90.5%	89.8%
Dollars spent per pupil**	$7,915	Up 4.5%	$8,569	$9,279
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	54.9%	Up from 54.5%	54.8%	52.7%
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	58.4%	Down from 59.5%	58.0%	56.7%
Opportunities in the arts	Excellent	No Change	Excellent	Excellent
Number of schools	25	No Change	19	9
Portable classrooms	8.8%	Down from 14.5%	3.1%	3.5%
Average age in years of school facilities	34 Years	Up from 33 Years	22 Years	28 Years
Number of schools with SACS accreditation	25.0	No Change	12.0	8.0
Parents attending conferences	97.1%	N/A	95.2%	93.9%
Average administrator salary	$77,305	Up 5.1%	$80,034	$79,261
Number of charter schools	0	No Change	0	0
% of AYP objectives met	90.9%	Up from 78.8%	91.4%	85.7%

* Length of contract = 185+ days.
** Prior year audited financial data available.

CHARTER SCHOOLS IN DISTRICT

School Name	Absolute Rating	Growth Rating	Adequate Yearly Progress
There are no charter schools in this district.			

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REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

State budget cuts of almost $5.6 million caused employee furloughs, reduced expenditures, and eliminated programs in 2008-2009, yet the School District of Pickens County still experienced areas of growth and reasons to celebrate. A major accomplishment was district accreditation. A year of preparation and a three-day site visit preceded the March announcement by the AdvancED Accreditation Commission.

The district moved forward in its comprehensive facilities plan. With the beginning of a new school year, major technology upgrades debuted in nine elementary schools, including the newly renovated Pickens Elementary. Contractors began site work for the new Easley, Liberty and Pickens high schools, and renovations began in several elementary schools. The board approved schematics for the new Dacusville Elementary and a second elementary school for the Liberty attendance area. However, a mid-year analysis of the projects and commitments revealed that the scope of work exceeded the money available. Schematics for the high schools, career center, and new elementary schools were revised, and the board approved a new facilities budget just over $365,000,000.

SDPC continued building an instructional program that provides quality learning experiences for all students. All schools used Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) formative assessments to facilitate instruction. We also added MAP's primary component so that we could measure the growth of our youngest learners. Spring 2009 MAP results placed our students above the national average at all levels from kindergarten through tenth grade in both reading and math.

The district examined and implemented opportunities to reduce the drop-out rate and improve the graduation rate. Because strong early childhood education plays such a crucial role in preventing dropouts, we implemented an early childhood curriculum model across the district. Many students recovered credit through APEX, an online courseware system. Also, we introduced two new courses that provide students with real-life working skills as outlined in the Education Economic Development Act. A year-long class called Teaching and Training at Liberty High and the introduction of a biomedical program at the career center took us a step further in establishing the schools of study in our high schools.

Several initiatives increased communication. Through the district's Web system, teachers created Web pages that provided families with easy access to assignments, long-range plans, and grades. The same system provided teachers with Academic Departments, electronic platforms for collaboration, which also include an online scope and sequence for every academic subject at every grade level. Each school began consistently using a parent communication system that delivers automated phone messages and e-mails.

As we move into a new year, we will continue to pursue our vision of providing every child the opportunity to succeed beyond the classroom.

Henry H. Hunt, Ph.D., Superintendent